

43rd ASSEMBLY DISTRICT • ASSEMBLY DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS CHAIR

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Jorgensen to JFC: "Leave SeniorCare Alone"

MADISON – As a critical vote in the budget-writing Joint Finance Committee approaches, Assembly Democratic Caucus Chair and State Representative Andy Jorgensen (D-Milton) is again calling on his colleagues to save SeniorCare, the state's discount prescription drug program. Serving 90,000 Wisconsinites, SeniorCare saves participants hundreds of dollars each year and, through its successful negotiation with drug companies, saves taxpayers \$90 million each year.

"SeniorCare is a win-win for Wisconsin, and I'm baffled by Governor Walker's ongoing effort to shut the program down," said Jorgensen. "The only thing I can think is that, if SeniorCare goes away, drug companies make more money – and maybe those companies are funding his presidential campaign."

Governor Walker first tried to kill SeniorCare in his 2011 budget, a proposal that was met with great public opposition. This cycle, Democrats have collected more than 14,000 signatures in their petition drive to "Save SeniorCare."

"I've no doubt, Republicans are feeling the pressure, once again," said Jorgensen. "But, I want to make this crystal clear to my colleagues: saving SeniorCare means leaving SeniorCare alone!"

Jorgensen notes that recently, Republicans have talked about increasing the drug co-payments for SeniorCare participants and limiting the number of new enrollees. Assembly Speaker Robin Vos has suggested doubling – or even tripling – SeniorCare's annual \$30 enrollment fee.

"Many of the folks on SeniorCare are just getting by on small Social Security checks. They can't afford a financial hit like this – and they shouldn't have to," said Jorgensen. "While Republicans throw millions in tax breaks and loans at companies that fail to create jobs, they're nickel-and-diming our grandparents. It's wrong."

Jorgensen is reaching out to individual members of Joint Finance now, asking that they reject the Governor's proposal outright in committee on Thursday. Members of the public are also encouraged to send emails or make phone calls; committee contact information can be found here.

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